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The attempt to subject all prostitutes to inspection and to render them harmless to health has never succeeded even under the most tyrannical methods of sanitary police armed with almost despotic powers. Men are tempted to indulgence by the false show of sanitary regulation, and the last barrier to lust which fear of disease raises is broken down; and thus even on sanitary grounds the system is condemned. On moral grounds the system is without excuse, and public sentiment in America would not tolerate the Paris and Berlin methods.

Yet something can be done and ought to be done. A positive program, representing the highest moral standards and the most enlightened judgment, is outlined by the committee. Much immorality arises from the overcrowding of tenement houses, and the public can do much to improve the conditions under which very poor families are compelled to live.

Public authorities or private munificence can provide adequately for purer and more elevating forms of amusement and thus "supplant the attractions of the low dance halls, theaters, and other similar places of entertainment that only seem to stimulate sensuality and to debase the taste." The community must co-operate with working people to raise the rates of wages, especially for young women who are dependent on themselves for support.

Better moral education will give youth instruction in the physical and moral aspects of impurity. An enlightened community will provide hospitals for the treatment of venereal diseases and offer every inducement for those affected to use them and secure medical advice. Minors who are notoriously debauched will be coercively confined in asylums or reformatories. Public solicitation should be suppressed, and the tenements of poor families should be guarded from the contaminating presence of vicious women and their visitors.

C. R. HENDERSON.

La Sociologie, il suo compito, le sue scuole, i suoi recente progressi. Per ACHILLE LORIA. Verona: Fratelli Drucker, 1900. Pp. 193.

PROFESSOR LORIA has published in this volume seven public lectures given at the University of Padua in the spring of 1900. A German version has already had a wide sale. The topics of the chapters are: the scope of sociology; the psychological treatment of sociology; sociology on a biological basis; sociology on an economic foundation; comparative sociology; sociological theories of the family.

In general it may be said that the author has used this opportunity to urge his well-known views of the essentially economic basis of social science, the so-called materialistic-historical theory as we find it in his earlier works. And on this point he has not advanced in clearness of definition; has not told us what he means by "economical" forces or causes. The desires which prompt men to production and exchange, to acquisition of property, are nowhere analyzed; if they had been, the author would see that the purely material factors, even in primitive society, were never absolutely decisive and have relatively less importance with the growth of science, art, and social organization. The materialistic explanation, whose apparent simplicity is so fascinating, turns out to be no explanation at all, since it rests on the psychical desires. Men in society act economically, in the strict sense of the word, only as they act with increasing consciousness of individual and social purposes.

It seems almost incredible that a man of such great learning, even in a joke (p. 175), should repeat the ridiculous story that in a certain city (not named) of Michigan, in the United States, the women, having secured a majority in the common council, monopolized all the offices save one—"quello di pubblico spazzino, che nella loro magnanimità bon voluto lesciare al sesso forte." This is akin to a belief, gravely expressed by an intelligent German in recent conversation, that the American duel code has this peculiarity that the challenger assuages his offended honor by hanging or shooting himself in his own home.

The appearance of a volume by an economist of highest rank, who sees with clearness the need of a co-ordinating social science, is itself an event of importance in the history of sociology.

The criticism of Schäffle ("il foraggino e pedantissimo") is not fair nor final; the summaries of Comte and Spencer, although brief, are clear and intelligent; and the answer to Kidd's main thesis of the irrational basis of the socializing impulses is very satisfactory.

C. R. HENDERSON.

The French Revolution and Modern French Socialism. A Comparative Study of the Principles of the French Revolution and the Doctrines of Modern French Socialism. By JESSICA PEIXOTTO, PH.D. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co.

WITHOUT entering upon discussion of particular conclusions reached by the author, it may be said that the book is a clear contribution to the history of social theories. Readers with psychological distinctions in mind will wonder at every step that the work